

July 2026

NEWSLETTER

Bethanylongview.org

# BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Ministry Team

Pastor Susan Dollinger : [pastor@bethanylongview.org](mailto:pastor@bethanylongview.org)

Church Musician Dorothy McMillan

Administrative Assistant Ginger Garner: [secretary@bethanylongview.org](mailto:secretary@bethanylongview.org)



## OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday-Thursday  
9:30-3:00

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

Services 9:30  
Coffee Hour 10:30



*Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. Ephesians 4:2-3 (NLT- New Living Translation).*

Dear Bethany,

As we move forward into the book of Matthew, we find that Jesus is ramping up in words and thoughts about the Pharisees and scribes. In chapter 23, the entire chapter is a rampage denouncing them.

One of our June readings was on division. There are many things that can divide denominations. As we just came out of June, which was Pride month, standing firm in Bethany being a safe place for all, has set us apart from other denominations. We know that all people are children of God.

That being said, we have to be careful with allowing things to divide our community. We need to lean on Jesus to help us through conflict and seek help from me or others to keep our community strong and thriving.

A friend of mine when faced with a difficult thing involving one of her children found that she was making a fist every time she thought about it. One day, she realized that she had almost cut into her hand with her fingernails, which was a wake-up call to what she was doing. The fist making had become an unknown habit whenever she was dealing with her child.

One day she realized that "Letting go and Letting God," was not possible in her tightened grip stance. So she physically peeled each finger open, until she had opened a hand. The act turned into a prayer of letting go. But the visual of such an expression of letting go is what we are left with. Sometimes, we have to open up our fists (minds or hearts) in a way that helps us remember God is there waiting for you to let him in.

As we move into the month of July, the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of the United States, I am sure there are some political divides out there that have crossed your path. It is a great day for forgiveness (so is tomorrow, and the next day after). Is there a place where there has been division that you can loosen your grip (not your values) on your unforgiveness and give it to God.

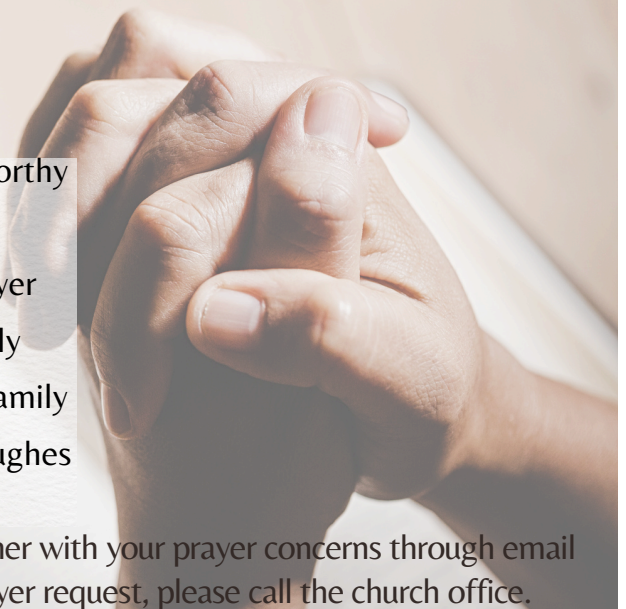
*Warmly, Pastor Susan*

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## *Prayer Requests*

Susan Shiu	Peggy Winston	Karen Langworthy
June White	Barb Clausen	Judy Bailey
John Mullaney	Barbara Price	Gail Obermeyer
Jennifer Nance	Custer family	Gilchrist family
Bob Baldwin	Krista & John Croy	Thibodeau family
The Milhisers	Takko family	David & Dana Hughes
The Newtons		

Shelly Limpach is our prayer chain contact. You may contact her with your prayer concerns through email at [BethanyPrayer247@gmail.com](mailto:BethanyPrayer247@gmail.com). If you have an urgent prayer request, please call the church office.





## **Emergency Fund July: Bread for the World**

Bread for the World ~ A World without Hunger

“Open your mouth for those who cannot speak, and for the rights of those who are left without help.”-Proverbs 31:8a  
NLV

Our second-mile giving, Bread for the World, is a Christian advocacy organization urging U.S. decision makers to do all they can to pursue a world without hunger. The mission is to educate and equip people to advocate for policies and programs that can help end hunger in the U.S. and around the world. Food banks are also essential – but Bread for the World focuses on advocacy. Why? Because federal nutrition programs provide roughly 10 times as much food assistance as private churches and charities combined. With the stroke of a pen, our government leaders have the power to create policies and programs that impact millions of people at once. Our faith in Christ is the foundation for their mission and compels them to love our neighbors near and far--- led by the values of faith to stand up for those experiencing hunger all over.

## **Ministry of the month: Council**

Please thank these elected members who devote their time, their prayers, and their ideas to both the administrative business and the spiritual side of our Bethany! They participate in a two-hour council meeting once a month, respond to email voting, etc. on a needs basis, and officers attend a monthly zoom meeting to prepare the agenda. They are responsible for hiring staff, recommending pastoral calls to the congregation, organizing congregational meetings, approving all contracts, and keeping us accountable for our work. Their advocacy and support for staff and members as well as the work of our congregational projects is vital to our success for the Lord’s work to be done at Bethany.

When you see them (or drop them a note of gratitude): John Pelster, Tori Gosch, Beth Grambo, Susan Shiu, George Obermeyer, Phyllis Cavens, Pr. Susan, and Barb Clausen

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### UPCOMING *Events*

#### **Summer Series: Wednesdays at 6:00**

July 8- Campfire Stories with S’mores

July 15- Film Festival Short Films

July 22- Craft Night with Oyster Shells

July 29- Old fashioned Hymns and Ice Cream Sundaes

August 5- Security: Scams and Hacking

August 12- Camino Portugal Pilgrimage

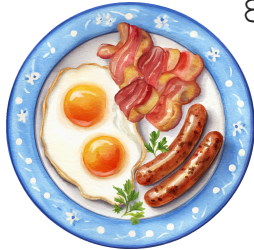
#### **New Member Service/ Outdoor Service**

July 12

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# Opportunities to Gather & Learn

Tuesday Breakfast Group  
8:00 am



## Corner Cafe

796 Commerce Ave. Suite 103  
What a great opportunity to enjoy  
good food and fellowship!

## Women's Bible Study

July



Women's Bible Study is based through  
Gather Magazine, \$9.95 for new  
subscribers.

We gather for prayers, cares, concerns,  
challenges, and celebration in the  
Faith room & on Zoom

Moments at the Lake  
Wednesdays @ 1:30



This is a wonderful opportunity for  
people to sit in the Word and have holy  
conversation while we discuss the  
scriptures for the following Sunday.

DUCT TAPE



Duct Tape meets every Thursday at  
9:00 am with a coffee and donut break  
at 10:00 am

## BIBLE STUDY



Online Fridays @ 10:00 am  
in person Sundays @ 11:15 am

## SMALL SEEDS and Sprouts



Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each  
month during the school year.  
12:30-2:00 pm

# CELEBRATE CELEBRATE CELEBRATE

01 Duane Thompson  
Carl Winston  
25 Chris Cotton  
26 Barbara Price  
29 Susan Shiu

Anniversaries  
06 Chris & Kelly Engebo  
19 Patrick and Pr Susan  
26 Rick & Ardyth Loewen  
Lee & Shelly Limpach



# MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS



July 5

July 12

July 19

July 26

Greeter

Kelly Engebo

Ushers

Chris Engebo  
Olivia Engebo

Reader

Chris Engebo

Communion Setup

Communion Assist

Powerpoint

Live Service

Financial Secretary

Pam van den Driessche

Barb Wilson

Mary Storm

Pam van den Driessche

Coffee Hour

Volunteer  
Coordinator

Phyllis Cavens

Tori Gosch

Barb Clausen

John Pelster

## THANK YOU!!!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO WORKED  
ON THE RUMMAGE SALE, WE KNOW MANY  
HOURS OF LABOR WERE PUT IN.  
YOU DID AN AMAZING JOB!





## Go 4<sup>th</sup> Festival Schedule

Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>

All Day	Longview Fire Fighters Hole-In-One Golf	Lake Sacajawea
9-12 & 1-5	Kids Fest	Lake Sacajawea/Kessler
10-9pm	Food Vendors Open	Hemlock Plaza
10-9pm	Marketplace Vendors	Nichols
Noon -10pm	Carnival	In front of RA Long
3:00 pm	Cardboard Boat Arrival	Martin's Dock
5:30-7:30pm	Cardboard Boat Races	Martin's Dock
8-9:00	Karaoke Finals	Martin's Dock
4pm-9	Live Entertainment	Martin's Dock

Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>

All Day	Longview Fire Fighters Hole-In-One Golf	Lake Sacajawea
9-12 & 1-5	Kids Fest	Lake Sacajawea/Kessler
10-10:30pm	Food Vendors Open	Hemlock Plaza
10-10:30pm	Marketplace Vendors	Nichols
Noon -10pm	Carnival	In front of RA Long
12 Noon-3pm	Timberfest Preliminaries	Louisiana/Kessler
4-7pm	Timberfest Main Event	Louisiana/Kessler
3-10pm	Spirits of Longview	Cow. Co. Expo
4- 9pm	Live Entertainment	Martin's Dock
6 pm	Firecracker Fun Run	Kessler/Hemlock

Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>

All Day	Longview Fire Fighters Hole-In-One Golf	Lake Sacajawea
8am	Parade Line Up	14 <sup>th</sup> & Broadway
9-12 & 1-5	Kids Fest	Lake Sacajawea/Kessler
9:45am	Cowlitz Valley Runners Race	Front of Hotel
10-11pm	Food Vendors Open	Hemlock Plaza
10-11pm	Marketplace Vendors	Nichols
10am	Parade	14 <sup>th</sup> & Broadway
Noon -10pm	Carnival	In front of RA Long
1 pm	Lions Kids Races	RA Long School
1:30 -10pm	Live Entertainment	Martin's Dock
1:30pm	Hot Dog Eating Contest & Pie Eating Contest	Main Stage
	Adults and Kids	
3:30pm	Pacific NW Wrestling	Louisiana/Kessler
9:58	Moment of Silence	
10/10:15pm	Fireworks	

**Bethany Lutheran Church**

**Council Meeting Minutes – Thursday, June 11, 2026 3:00p.m.**

**Attendance** – Present: Pastor Susan Dollinger, Barbara Clausen, Beth Grambo, George Obermeyer, John Pelster, Phyllis Cavens, Susan Dollinger, Tori Gosch, Susan Shiu. Absent: None

**Devotions and Prayer** – Beth Grambo

**Call to Order and President's Report** – Barbara Clausen called the meeting to order at 3:13 pm

- Decisions made between Council Meetings: None
- Agenda Changes – Computer for Ginger
- Devotions for Thursday, July 9 and/or August 13, 3:00 Council Meeting - Phyllis Cavens

**Secretary's Report** – John Pelster

- **Approval** Council Minutes May 14, 2026 – Filed as printed.
- **Treasurer's Report** – Susan Shui

May		2026 YTD		May-2025		2025 YTD	
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses
\$10,960	\$13,512	\$62,243	\$64,864	\$9,161	\$12,637	\$54,170	\$87,737
Fell Short by \$2,552		Fell Short by \$2,6221		Exceeded by \$6,162		Exceeded by \$8,9855	

- **Synod Remittance-** \$383.61
- **Emergency Fund Report** - \$238.40 to Habitat for Humanity
- **Sound System Balance** - \$12,142 is what we have received and \$23,349 was last quote
- **Attendance for May Avg.** 48
- **Financial Review:** The committee meets again on June 11. Their availability to meet regularly has been hampered by health issues.

**Ministry Reports** –

- The new hearing devices have arrived and have been used. Thank you Memorial for making this purchase possible!

**Hospitality:** Joyce Croy

- Hospitality will host the Father's Day Potluck on June 21

**Memorial:** Joyce Croy- no report

**Worship/Music:**

- Russell Gilchrist preached (pastor present) on May 31. Thank you Russ!

**Youth/Service:** Barb Clausen

- Confirmation of Jonah Pelster, Gabe Pelster and Emily Engebo on May 24 was a wonderful service! It represented many years of work on the confirmands part, and dedication from Pat and Bob Reistroffer, Pastor Susan Dollinger and Pastor Megan Filier.
- There will not be any specific summer activities this year
- Fish distribution on May 15 served 108: 11 Seniors, 51 Adults, 44 children and two babies. Wow!

**Duct Tape Crew:** Pastor Susan Dollinger, George Obermeyer, Dan Lane, Carol Thompson

- We received a bill for \$1,297 for the time frame of the water leak. Ginger has submitted the proper paperwork to the Beacon Hill Water Department requesting a reduction in the bill. An anonymous donation paid for the water bill! We are blessed! Thank you!
- Several people participated in the cleaning day in May. Thanks Dan, Rus, Patrick, Tom, Harry, Sandy, Shelly S and George!!
- PUD chopped down a large branch over some wires. The debris will need to be chopped up.

**Stewardship:** We are recruiting new members for this committee. Nancy Skora and Phyllis Cavens have agreed to serve.

**Mutual Ministry:** Met on May 27th. Next meeting will be held August 19.

**Women's Bible Study-** Meet Tuesday, 10:30

- Women will continue with the book called *Taste and See* by Margaret Feinberg in between gaps of *Gather* magazine. The group will meet July 28 and August 25.

### Education and Bible Study-

- Study of Matthew continues throughout June.
- July Summer Sessions – see handout.
- Small Seeds is off for the summer.
- There will be no formal youth events this summer.

### Women of Bethany

- Next meeting on the 5th Tuesday is September 29

### Minister's Report: Pastor Susan

- Lay-led Sunday on June 14. Chris Cotton preaching, Beth Grambo assisting. Pastor will be preaching at Messiah in Vancouver to cover for a pastor having surgery.
- Attended the Synod Educational Gathering on Stewardship.
- Met with Ginger for her review. Dor was unable to meet due to travel; we will meet after the rummage sale.
- Pastor attended the Bishop's convo in Seabeck at the beginning of May, the synod gathering in Vancouver, and the installation of a colleague in Olympia. She also visited Susan S at Tacoma General.
- There will be a Dean's retreat October 13-15.
- New Member Sunday will be July 12.
- Pastor's Mother is facing some health challenges. Pastor will keep us apprised of her need to be with family in Bellevue.

### Unfinished Business:

- **Annual Review of Pastor and Staff** – To focus on project planning & balance to reduce stress. **Moved and seconded to approve Pastor Susan's goal for the next year. Motion carried.**
- **Synod Education Workshop Report** - Pastor Susan reported it was a positive experience focused on building interpersonal connections at the synod level.
- **Website Progress** - Images, text, and newsletter are loaded into the new site, the committee is meeting regularly to perform editing and polishing before it is ready for an internal review and launch.
- **Summer Surge** - Several members have volunteered to lead various activities this summer, details to follow. Publicity going out the week of June 18th to churches, friends, etc. Please share!

### New Business

- **Personnel Policy** – Barbara Clausen informed the council on our existing personnel policy.
- **Sabbatical Discussion** - Requirements and conditions were reviewed for the possibility of a future Sabbatical. More will be discussed in December-January for the following year.

### Staff Report –

- **Dorothy Schedule Update** - Dorothy will be providing music at Kalama Methodist and will not be available for rehearsals after Sunday Service. Pre-service rehearsals are unaffected, and others may meet during a different time.
- **Ginger's Computer** - We need a new computer for the Secretary's office. (Currently, she is using her personal one as the job requires a better tool. Requirements are being gathered and estimates on a new system will be submitted and an electronic vote may be required. (Note: The Memorial Committee has offered to pay \$500 towards the new computer.)
- **Facility Use**
- Kim Isakson Celebration of Life will be June 27th at 1:00 p.m.

**Adjournment** - Meeting adjourned at 4:43 The Council mailed post cards to missing members

**Next Scheduled Meetings: Executive Committee Wednesday, July 8 (if needed) and August 5 (zoom) at noon;**


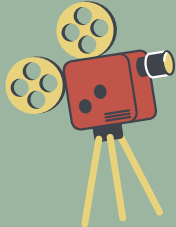
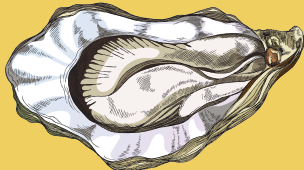

**Council Thursday, July 9 (if needed) and August 13–3:00 pm;**

# SUMMER SURGE SERIES

Wednesdays @ 6:00pm

*Public Welcome*

Sign up by calling 360.577.8240

	<p><b>July 8</b></p> <p><b>Campfire Stories with S'mores</b> Come share your favorite camping stories as we enjoy a night of s'mores around the campfire.</p>
	<p><b>July 15</b></p> <p><b>Film Festival Short Films</b> Carl Winston has produced several very short films that have been shown at U.S. film festivals—topics include sci-fi, Sasquatch, drama, and a documentary. Come listen to Carl share his experiences.</p>
	<p><b>July 22</b></p> <p><b>Craft Night with Oyster Shells</b> Nancy Skora will lead us in using oyster shells to make home décor. Come show your creative side and make friends! Craft Fee \$2.00. Must RSVP</p>
	<p><b>July 29</b></p> <p><b>Old Fashioned Hymn Sing w/ Ice Cream Sundaes</b> Talented Dorothy McMillan will be “tickling the ivory keys” and leading us in your favorite old-time hymns. Old fashioned ice cream sundaes will be served. Free will offering collected.</p>

ATTENDANCE	
June	TOTAL
7	42
14	31
21	45
28	52
Avg	42.5

Offering to date June	
2025	2026
\$62,384	\$77,948
Expenses to date June	
2025	2026
\$74,186	\$75,609

Name/Position/Term
1. John Pelster (2029)
2. Barbara Clausen (2027)
3. Susan Shiu (Treasurer)
4. Phyllis Cavens (2029)
5. George Obermeyer (2029)
6. Beth Grambo (2027)
7. Tori Gosch (2028)
8. P. Susan Dollinger (Pastor)



# Bethany Lutheran Church

## JULY 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>5 Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour</p>						
<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	
<p>12 <b>New Member Outdoor Service</b> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Hospitality Lunch</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	



1  
1:30 Moments @ the Lake

2  
9:00 Duct tape  
10:00 Coffee w/ DT

6:00 Camfire & S'mores

6:00 Boy Scouts

Film Festival Short Films

Craft w/oyster shells

Old Fashioned Hymn Sing with Ice Cream Sundaes



**Bethany Lutheran Church**

2900 Parkview Drive, Longview, WA 98632

Phone: 360-577-8240

**GOD'S BLESSINGS TO**

July 2026

**NEWSLETTER**

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